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attention to the shape of names tends to this result. The specific name of the house-wren is *aëdon* not *ædon*; the generic name of the wood-warblers is *Dendroæca*, not *Dendroica*. Occasional airing of the Greek roots is as good for the health of the outgrowing words, as stirring the soil about the roots of a tree is for its vigor. In writing *Mniotilla* instead of the customary *Mniotilta*, did Mr. Brewster intend to revert to the original Vieillotian spelling? For that is the way Vieillot spells the word, if we remember rightly, in the Ency. Meth.—E. C.

MORSE'S FIRST BOOK OF ZOOLOGY.¹—This charming little book will, we imagine, be immensely liked by young people, whether they use it as a text-book or receive it as a holiday present. It is designed for boys and girls, and presupposes an entire ignorance of animals on the part of the student. The plan is to teach by a study of the objects themselves. The writer tells young people how and where to look for specimens. After an excursion in search of shells, insects, etc., the author as it were, sits down by the reader with his or her hands full of the different objects, and draws their attention to the difference between them, and to the main points in their structure. There is little method in the plan of the book, and the reader is not bewildered with a "natural system" before he has learned something about the animals composing it.

The drawings are with few exceptions original, while all have been engraved expressly for the book. They add much to the attractiveness of the text. The illustrations of the parts of insects, the mode of growth of shells, and the anatomy of vertebrates, are strikingly original. The chapter on vertebrates presents matter that we think will be new to many teachers of comparative anatomy. The book is sumptuously printed and bound.

BOTANY.

SEQUOIA SEMPERVIRENS.—At a recent meeting of the California Academy of Sciences, Dr. A. W. Saxe made a preliminary report on a grove of colossal redwood trees that have been discovered on the course of the San Lorenzo, which takes its rise near Saratoga, in Santa Clara County, and debouches into the Bay of Monterey,

¹ First Book of Zoology. By Edward S. Morse, Ph.D. New York. D. Appleton & Co., 1875. 12mo. pp. 190, with 158 woodcuts. \$1.25.